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MICHELLE XENOS

MS. XENOS: Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Michelle. I live here in Las Vegas. Is this the one that's one? The one with the red light. There we go. My name is Michelle. Good afternoon, everybody. I work with a group called Shundahai Network here in Las Vegas. We're here to try to address the nuclear issues that Nevada faces all the time.

1 Regarding Yucca Mountain, I find it really hard to address a lot of the issues, but one of the big things is that if we let them bring all that waste to Yucca Mountain, what is going to stop them from making more? To me, that is the most -- most troublesome, troublesome concept that I'm dealing with when I look at this Environmental Impact Statement because this environmental impact analysis doesn't look at the environmental impact of the next 70,000 metric tons of high-level waste, and do we have any process? Because I know that when NEPA talks about looking at all environmental impacts, NEPA talks about, you know, all of those environmental impacts, and yet the result of Yucca Mountain is going to be the continuation of the -- of the processing and the development of more high-level radioactive waste, and how are we addressing that impact on our environment.

2 Because the truth of it is that we know radioactive waste is harmful to us. The DOE themselves won't even deny that because they're paying out millions of dollars right now to tons -- to thousands of thousands of DOE workers pre-1981, and there's going to be past RCRA, post-1981 RCRA for compensation for workers, and then we're going to start compensating community members, and I think geez, is that what we want living here in Nevada twenty years from now to get a check because we're sick? Because that's what's going to happen. That's what's been happening. That's the running record with the DOE. They've paying out money, just like the mayor of Caliente wants money to get the stuff going through them, but the fact of the matter is no amount of money is going to keep us alive or keep us healthy. We're going to have to do that.

3 And this radiation, this radioactive waste, no matter how you look at it, from the moment that you mine uranium, from the moment you mine mercury, from the moment you pull it out of the ground, it's causing contamination to our earth, and the water that flows on the other side of the earth and the water that flows here in Nevada is not different water; it's the same water, and that's the truth of it because this earth is tumbling around and turning and this water's mixing up. It's a hydrological cycle, just like the cooling system that exists in our own bodies where the water flows in our bodies and it keeps our temperatures cool, it keeps our temperatures -- it's a conduit, and this water flows. We're embedded in water; we're embedded in air. Right at this moment. We're embedded in a matrix of water and air, and the thing is that there's no way to keep this radiation away from our water and our air, and that's just a fact.

4 They can build all these casks and all these things. What about all the accidents when they start emptying those casks and they have to transport shipment after shipment after shipment 30, 40, 70,000 times they have to take some kind of machine and pull this stuff out of these casks and transport it down into these tunnels. What about if there's a mistake. What about if there's an accident? Then you have all of this waste being traveled -- transporting through all these roads. One accident could cause environmental impact that could cause generations and generations of health problems for our people.

5 I have a 6-year-old son. I don't want him to have to deal with this mess we're making, but if we let Yucca Mountain get filled up with high-level radioactive waste and those power plants are over there still making more, and there's thirteen other countries on this planet with the same problem, and it's such a serious problem, I don't understand why we're sitting around going well, what about this or what about that? We're going to kill ourselves and every other living thing around us, you know. We're poisoning our air, the very air we breathe. We're poisoning it with a lot of things, with cars we drive, all kinds of stuff, sure, but this radiation, it's not -- you can't see it, you can't taste it, you can't feel it, and it's been around us now for fifty years. This nuclear age has been going on for fifty years.

continued
on page 2

5 We could, you know, not be using twenty-five percent of the power we're using. We could make some
continued sacrifices here. Everybody in this room could make that kind of sacrifice for our future, know you, but are
we willing to do it? I'd like to see us be willing to do it because it really bothers me to think that, yeah, we're
sitting here spending billions of dollars worrying about this 70,000 metric tons. And what about the next
70,000 metrics tons, you know? |

MR. LAWSON: Can you finish in about thirty seconds, please?

6 MS. XENOS: | Well, I just wanted to say that because I really -- I'm really grateful for everybody that's
coming down here and all the hard work that people have put into trying to address these problems, but I
think that those of us here in Nevada have to get a lot more serious about the implications of it, the health
impacts of it. When you look at -- I read this article twenty years, all the men in the United States are going
to be sterile. I read that in Earth Island Institute Journal. You find that for yourself. You know what causes
sterility? Radiation. You find out for yourself. This is true. This is true. | The DOE lies to you all the time.
They lie to you. They're killing us, okay? And maybe the Indian people know it because they've been going
through genocide for so many decades, so many thousands of years. Maybe the affected communities who
live near federal facilities know it because their children are being born with cancer. Okay?

7 But pretty soon three generations from now, ten generations from now or a hundred generations from now,
every single one of us is going to know it. I don't give -- you know, it doesn't matter who you are, it doesn't
matter what color you skin is or how much money you have in your pocket. It's not going to matter, okay?
Thank you very much for listening to me. DOE, please, do something. You're killing us. |